

AMENDMENT

Please amend the pending application in accordance with the following particulars.

In the Specification

An amendment to the specification is provided below under the heading AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION.

In the Drawings

A REPLACEMENT SHEET for changes made to the drawing figures of page 2 is submitted herewith.

In the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application and is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

The ring portion 44 includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced flange segments 50 projecting radially from the outer circumference 47 thereof. Each of the flange segments 50 is provided with a top surface 76 and a radially and axially extending inclined surface 52 defined at an end thereof oriented to extend at an angle relative to the axis A of the support ring 26. The inclined surfaces 52 are preferably planar and arranged on ends of the flange segments 50 that are trailing relative to the direction of driving motion of the impeller of the cutting head.

Please amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

The mounting ring 24, as shown in FIG. 3, preferably includes opposed upper and lower radially extending surfaces 56, 58. The upper surface 56 is arranged to permit the cutting head 10 of the known slicing machine to be positioned thereon and permit the impeller 18 to extend therethrough. The lower surface 58 is arranged to be positioned on the upper surface 46 and the top surfaces 76 of the flange segments 50 of the mounting ring 26. The inner circumference 57 of the mounting ring 24 is sized so as to be accommodated by the annular lip 48 of the support ring 26 such that the outer circumference 49 of the annular lip 48 is generally of the same diameter as the inner circumference 57 of the mounting ring 24. The mounting ring 24 includes a plurality of holes 80 defined around the periphery thereof and arranged to receive fasteners used to connect the cutting head 10 of the slicing machine to the mounting ring 24.